

owners by establishing a dedicated funding stream. Unfortunately the bill sponsor declined to make this change.

I urge my colleagues to instead support H.R. 3997 which would much more effectively ensure that our veteran business owners have the opportunity to compete and succeed.

TRIBUTE TO DEB WEILAGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deb Weilage of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being named a Parent Educator of the Year. She was honored recently at the Parents as Teachers Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Deb, along with four other parent educators from around the country, accepted the award before 1,300 conference participants. Each of them there were representing early childhood, child care, health, mental health, social services, and government agencies from across the nation and around the world. The Parent Educator of the Year award is intended to honor those individuals and affiliate programs whose practices exemplify the mission of Parents as Teachers.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Deb in the United States Congress, and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE VICTIMS OF TERROR PROTECTION FUND—HOUSE RESOLUTION 528

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the past 36 hours have been a very trying time for the world family as we grapple with the reality of terrorists wreaking havoc in our world.

One only needs to look at the current news events across the globe to appreciate the imperative of countering violent extremism, empowering and protecting victims of terror, refugees and displaced persons.

In the past three months alone, ISIS has claimed responsibility for crimes, atrocities and terroristic attacks, claiming lives in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Beirut and Paris.

Daesh-ISIS and other terrorist networks that have pledged allegiance to ISIS today pose the gravest extremist threat faced by our generation and those of our children.

But we must not be moved by their evil ways, for eventually, the arc of the moral universe always tips on the side of justice of peace of equity of the rule of law.

This is why I remain steadfast in my commitment to combatting violent extremism and protecting victims.

Today, I introduced legislation expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the creation of a Victims of Terror Protection Fund.

I urge support of this legislation.

As a result of terrorism in the region and Boko Haram in particular in Nigeria, recent reports inform us that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa and the third largest in the world, following Syria and Colombia.

As we know, the recent coordinated attacks in Paris, following military interventions by at least two United Nations Security Council permanent members: Russia and France highlights the fact that we are dealing with an enemy of humanity and compels us to launch an international and coordinated strategy to diminish ISIS to protect our children and our children's children.

Moreover, the recent events underscore the importance of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to degrade and permanently destroy ISIS and its vitriolic ideology that is inflicting pain on innocent people.

As we all know, humanitarian crises triggered by sectarian and ideological violence has plagued our world at a disheartening rate.

According to one United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) annual Global Trends report, which is based on data compiled by governments and non-governmental partner organizations, and from the organization's own records, over 60 million people have been forcibly displaced across the globe.

Moreover, according to a report by the International Displacement Monitor Center, an estimated 3,300,000 persons have been displaced and 5,500 killed as a result of the violence wreaked by Boko Haram.

One United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report asserts that as the most populous nation in Africa with 174,000,000 persons, 1,500,000 people have fled their homes to escape Boko Haram.

In April, 2014, 276 girls were terrorized and kidnapped from their dormitories in Chibok by Boko Haram.

In addition to the still missing Chibok girls, approximately 3,300,000 persons are displaced in the Lake Chad Basin which sits on the edge of the Sahara which encompasses Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.

We must not forget these girls or displaced persons and must work to provide the support they will need to recover from the trauma they have suffered.

The victims will be in dire need of humanitarian assistance which the Victims of Terror Protection Fund can provide.

The Victims of Terror Protection Fund should be modeled after the cases of Khazistan and Equatorial Guinea where prior kleptocracy initiatives have been created to benefit communities and victims in need of support.

A kleptocracy is when a government in power exploits or steals national resources, which unfortunately has happened all too often across the globe.

Here, the United States Department of Justice through its Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative has identified the forfeited "Abacha Funds," funds stolen by former Nigerian dictator Sanni Abacha.

Indeed, the "Abacha Funds" is the largest kleptocracy forfeiture action ever brought in

the United States resulting in a \$450,000,000 judgment of the forfeited assets facilitated by Justice's remarkable Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

The Abacha Administration embezzled Nigerian public funds under other false claims, that the Administration was investing in national security measures to protect Nigeria and the Nigerian people.

As we all see now, as a result of or in part because of the Abacha Administration's failure to invest in and implement security measures, the security in Nigeria and the region is tenuous, with the country and region currently under continuous threat by the ISIS affiliated group Boko Haram.

Indeed, Boko Haram and other sectarian terrorists have trafficked, kidnapped, murdered and caused the displacement of millions of children, women and men.

Recovered victims displaced by terrorist activity as well as refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons fleeing for their lives will be in dire need of protection and support.

A Victim of Terror Protection Fund can supply health aid, educational support, employment training, economic empowerment, dignity and overall improved social welfare of these victims.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly democratically elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

Yet, resiliency flows through the veins and into the hearts of the Nigerian people.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support the victims through the protection fund to protect, support and address the unprecedented migrant and refugee crisis across the Mediterranean triggered by violent extremism, conflict and natural disasters.

Boko Haram is an existential threat to the human rights, well being and security of the Nigerian people and their regional neighbors with its relentless drive to commit genocide.

Part of the strategy to help address the scourge of Boko Haram's atrocity should be through the creation of a Victim of Terror Protection Fund and accessibility of military technical assistance to Nigeria and its regional neighbors pursuant to the UN Security Council and neighboring African countries call for accelerated military collaboration to combat this extremist group.

This is why I commend the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is deploying 300 U.S. troops to Africa to set up a drone base to track fighters from Boko Haram, which continues to seek to destabilize Nigeria and neighboring countries during its blood thirsty assault on innocent people.

The U.S. forces' presence will be critical to combatting Boko Haram, which now appears to continue to wage its vicious insurgency in Nigeria and now spilling into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger and leaving an estimated 20,000 people dead.

In light of these atrocities and its pleading of allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS), we must remain vigilant of Boko Haram, since both groups are fighting to establish a caliphate across the Middle East and in Africa.

Our global strategy for ending the suffering, preventing displacement and creating solutions for displaced persons in Africa requires a